

as much as it pains me to say it—it's TU. It's the Fightin' Texas Aggie Band, Silver Taps and "Hallabaloo, Canek, Canek." It's the Junction Boys, Howdy, Gig'em, Reville, the Dixie Chicken and of course, the ring. But above all else—it's Muster.

Gig'em Ags!

And that's just the way it is.

COMMEMORATING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. WAXMAN. Madam Speaker, each year on April 24, Armenian communities around the world commemorate the start of the Armenian genocide. This year marks the 93rd anniversary of this ominous date in history when Ottoman authorities began rounding up leaders of the Armenian community. The arrests were followed by eight years of massacres, death marches, and forced deportations to rid the Ottoman Empire of its Armenian population.

At the time, American diplomats, under the leadership of U.S. Ambassador Henry Morgenthau, Sr., recorded and reported information about these atrocities. While the calls for international action were soon eclipsed by the tumult of World War I, the State Department's historical records of these accounts are a remarkable example of the important role our diplomatic corps play as human rights observers around the world.

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of H. Res. 106, a resolution affirming the United States record on the Armenian Genocide, which calls for our foreign policy to reflect the U.S. record relating to this painful chapter of history. As we mourn the victims of the Armenian genocide and pay tribute to the survivors, let us look forward to the opportunity for the House to consider H. Res. 106 and stand up to those who seek to deny the genocide that took place.

THE DAILY 45: 41 PEOPLE SHOT IN 5 DAYS IN CHICAGO

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. RUSH. Madam Speaker, the Department of Justice tells us that, everyday, 45 people, on average, are fatally shot in the United States. In light of the shocking turn of events in the last five days in Chicago, I can imagine a day in the near future when this number may rise.

Yesterday, just seven blocks from my office, in the heart of my own congressional district, this Southside community was left reeling because five people—five people—were found shot to death in one home! As I mentioned yesterday, 36 people were shot in Chicago over a 48-hour period of time last weekend.

That's 41 people shot or killed, in only five days, in one American city. Who will tell their stories? Who will care about them?

Americans of conscious must come together to stop the senseless death of "The Daily 45."

When will Americans say enough is enough, stop the killing!

JOHN ARCHIBALD WHEELER

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, on April 13, 2008, America lost one of its greatest scientific minds. Dr. John Archibald Wheeler influenced generations of scientists (including me) and his imprint on the field of physics and our collective understanding of the universe we inhabit cannot be overstated.

Wheeler began his career in the company of men whose names are well known to history—Niels Bohr and Albert Einstein. Wheeler, who earned his Ph.D. in physics at age 21, went to Denmark a year after earning his degree to study under Bohr, who at the time was on the cutting edge of nuclear research. It was only after Bohr fled Denmark in 1939—just months before the Nazi occupation of the country—that Wheeler learned of the research Bohr and others had been conducting into the possibilities and ramifications of nuclear fission.

Ultimately, Wheeler would join Robert Oppenheimer and others on the Manhattan Project, turning America into the world's first nuclear power. Later, Wheeler would play a key role the development of thermonuclear weapons and become an advocate of the war in Vietnam and of the creation of a ballistic missile defense system for the United States. But for all his work on weapons of war, his passion was trying to understand the workings of the universe.

We owe the term "black hole" to Wheeler, who initially resisted the idea of the existence of these stellar phenomena but was ultimately persuaded of their existence by the mathematical work of Dr. David Finkelstein and others. In this, Wheeler demonstrated the traits of the best scientists: a willingness to challenge, and ultimately change, his views based on the facts and evidence.

When he reached Princeton University's mandatory retirement age in 1976, Wheeler was not ready to walk away from the profession he loved. He moved to Texas, taking up residence at the University of Texas at Austin and continued his investigation into the workings of the universe, seeking to understand "how everything fits together." He continued to teach, lecture, and write for many more years, and his influence on at least two generations of physicists will be felt for generations to come.

Dr. Wheeler's wife of 72 years, the late Jannet Hegner Wheeler, passed away in October 2007 at age 99. The Wheelers are survived by their three children, Ms. Lahnston and Letitia Wheeler Ufford, both of Princeton; James English Wheeler of Ardmore, Pa.; 8 grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, 6 step-grandchildren and 11 step-great grandchildren.

I am pleased to join my colleagues in honoring John Wheeler through H. Res. 1118. We can honor him best by recommitting ourselves to making America the world leader in scientific research and achievements, and I will certainly do all I can to make that another of Dr. Wheeler's lasting achievements.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE MODERN STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Israel as it celebrates its 60th anniversary. Israel is not only a close military ally and trade partner, it is also a true friend of the United States.

The United States shares Israel's commitment to peace and freedom. We share a commitment to democracy, the Rule of Law and we share a culture that honors life—not that glamorizes death. Perhaps more than any other people, Israel understands the insidiousness of evil and the need for good people to remain vigilant against it. We share a great deal, Madam Speaker. It is no accident that the United States and Israel are such great friends.

Despite frequent and cowardly attacks, this young country has withstood every missile, every grenade, every car bomb, every suicide bomber. Israel has weathered the violence of terrorist groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah, which have vowed Israel's destruction and which receive copious funding from Iran and Syria. Israel must combat these constant and cowardly attacks, but rarely does the world acknowledge the restraint shown by Israel in defending itself, trying always to wage this war of survival with reverence for innocent life.

While rockets rain down on Israel from terrorists operating in Gaza, Israel continues to allow the delivery of food and medicines across the Gaza border. Although Hamas seizes humanitarian aid for its own nefarious uses and exploits humanitarian vehicles to smuggle weapons and explosives, Israel continues to allow aid to flow across its border with Gaza. While Israel's enemies purposely target the innocent, Israel responds with tactical strikes against terrorists, their weapons bases, and their command centers to protect the innocent. While the forces of extremism and terrorism continue to barrage freedom-loving people in Israel and around the globe, I am heartened to see that the forces of evil have failed to destroy the basic goodness of those who struggle against terror so that they may live in peace and freedom.

Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of Israel's 60th anniversary, I am honored to have this opportunity to congratulate Israel for its tremendous contributions to the world and to express my profound gratitude for Israel's unwavering friendship with the United States.

40 YEARS AFTER ITS FOUNDING, THE PEACE CORPS CONTINUES ITS MISSION WITH STRONG SUPPORT FROM MAINE

HON. THOMAS H. ALLEN

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, in March, we marked the 47th anniversary of the founding

of the Peace Corps. This unique service organization continues to fulfill its mission across the globe, bringing people together, and enlightening both American volunteers and the people and communities they serve.

After President John F. Kennedy established the Peace Corps, 51 Americans stepped forward to assume the challenge to serve.

Today, there are over 8,000 volunteers serving in over 74 countries around the world. They work in areas such as education, business development, environment, health and HIV/AIDS, and agriculture. They live the Middle East, Africa, Asia, Latin America, and Eastern Europe. They are both young and seasoned, but all contribute enormous skills, knowledge, compassion and commitment to help people help themselves. Over the years, Maine has contributed many volunteers to the Peace Corps. Current Maine residents now serving are:

Cassandra M. Atwood in Tonga, Michael T. Berg in Armenia, Clarissa L. Brundage in Togo, Selina H. Carter in Ecuador, Andrea D. Danielson in Gambia, Shawn C. Donohue in Mali, Greg N. Dorr in Malawi, Laura N. Dow in China, John M. Engler in Guatemala, Jeffrey E. Frank in Belize, Rebecca B. Friedrichs in Togo, Joseph P. Guglielmetti in Zambia, Benjamin C. Hatch in Mali, Clint O. Benslev in Romania, Richard E. Higgins in the Philippines, Sarah W. Holt in Ecuador, Matthew P. Krannig in Nicaragua, Jessica E. Lampron in South Africa, Karen A. Lee in Swaziland, Joshua D. Lincolns in Bolivia, David A. Ludman in Benin, Ran L. Mastropaolo in the Eastern Caribbean, Joshua R. Meservey in Zambia, Matthew A. Mowatt in Kazakhstan, Joel L. Patterson in Senegal, James Perlow in South Africa, Nancy L. Sherrill in South Africa, John W. Shryock in Bulgaria, Emily E. Silver in Tanzania, Jessica J. Sleeper in Vanuatu, Zoe J. Underhill in Ecuador, Aaron A. Weiss in Moldova, Cheney J. Wells in Costa Rica and Nicholas B. Wilson in Gambia.

I am proud that Maine, a small state in population, is making such a big difference in the world. My deep gratitude goes to these volunteers for serving their country, the Peace Corps and world peace.

93RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, today we commemorate one of the most tragic chapters in human history: the Armenian genocide, whose 93rd anniversary is marked today. From 1915 to 1923, officials of the Ottoman Empire carried out a systematic campaign of massacres and forced deportations of Armenians from their homeland. All told, 1.5 million innocent men, women and children were murdered in this genocide, and 500,000 became refugees and displaced persons.

And sadly, we see this pattern—of genocide—repeating itself today. It is no coincidence that on this very day of commemoration, the news from Darfur grows only worse. While the world's worst humanitarian and human rights crisis continues to unfold, the re-

gime in Khartoum continues to stymie the implementation of a peacekeeping force, and the peace process has ground to a halt. From the U.N. come frightening new figures—300,000 dead and the vast majority of the region's population, 4.27 million out of 6 million, now "seriously affected" by the conflict.

Clearly, patterns repeat themselves. Which is all the more reason why, in commemorating the 20th century's first genocide, one cannot help but feel compelled to redouble our efforts to resolve the 21st century's first genocide—that of Darfur.

The Genocide Convention speaks not only of addressing genocide after it has happened—but also of preventing genocide. This day of commemoration should remind us all that we have a responsibility not only to honor the victims of genocide and their families, not only a responsibility to the past, but to the future. In the face of continuing genocide, we have a responsibility for action—not apathy.

In a July 24, 1915 cable, American Consul Leslie Davis said of the genocide of Armenians, "I do not believe there has ever been a massacre in the history of the world so general and thorough as that which is now being perpetrated in this region or that a more fiendish, diabolical scheme has ever been conceived by the mind of man." Today, those words strike us not only as tragic—but as outdated. The troubled 20th century showed us, again and again and again, that the mind of man is more than capable of such diabolical schemes.

Today, burdened by the memory of those crimes, we remember and rededicate. Today we return to the origin of genocide, and we honor the dead. Let us find in their memory not only grief, but new resolution—to speedily end today's atrocities, to prevent those of tomorrow, and to punish all those who would attempt or carry out evil on such a scale.

TRIBUTE TO ERNEST LEROY PETERSON

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the patriotic public service and self sacrifice of Ernest LeRoy Peterson.

Ernest LeRoy Peterson was born on December 28, 1920, in Albert Lea, Minnesota, to Oscar and Nora Peterson. He was the second eldest son of eight children. As a child, he moved to the eastern plains of Colorado, where his family was involved in farming.

In August 1942, he was drafted into the 531st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion, 30th Army Division, as a private. He completed basic training at Ft. Bliss, Texas and then advanced combat training at Camp Coxcomb, California. He later advanced to the rank of sergeant and section chief of Squad 13, Eighth Gun Crew.

On February 12, 1944, his battalion sailed out of Boston Harbor aboard the RMS *Empress of Australia*, bound for England. The ship, one of the largest transport vessels, held 6,800 troops. Ernie's bunk was in the swimming pool due to the lack of space. After 10 days on the high seas, the unit debarked at the bomb-scarred city of Liverpool.

On June 4, 1944, General Eisenhower spoke to Ernest and thousands of other troops over a loud speaker telling them an invasion of France would begin on June 6 and said, "Soldiers, sailors and airmen of the Allied expeditionary force, you are about to embark upon the great crusade, toward which we have striven these many months. The eyes of the world are upon you. The hopes and prayers of liberty-loving people everywhere march with you. . . . I have full confidence in your courage, devotion to duty and skill in battle. We will accept nothing less than full Victory! Good Luck! And let us all beseech the blessing of Almighty God upon this great and noble undertaking."

Ernest landed on Omaha Beach with the 531st on June 15th, nine days after D-day. Facing fierce battles along the way, Ernest's division first encountered the Germans at Isigny, France. During his march to Germany, Ernest participated in the Battle of the Bulge, which started on December 16, 1944. Three powerful German armies with over 500,000 men plunged into the heavily forested Ardennes region of eastern Belgium and northern Luxembourg. The Americans were able to stop them at Malmedy.

Ernest dug in his defensive position at Malmedy not more than 100 yards from where 86 American prisoners had been massacred by the Germans the day before. For 5 days in a row his unit was under air attack in Malmedy by Americans who thought the city had fallen to the Germans. Ernest eventually marched into Germany and met up with Russian soldiers on April 17, 1945.

Ernest's unit also went to Buchenwald concentration camp. They found piles of human bones and piles of eyeglasses five feet tall, as well as lamp shades made out of human skin. The prisoners that remained were skin and bone. Ernest did occupational duty as a guard at a prison in St. Marc, France, before returning to the United States. He received an honorable discharge from the Army on November 14, 1945.

For his service to this Nation, Ernest was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, the American Campaign Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the World War II Victory Medal, the Honorable Service Lapel Button, the Sharpshooter Badge and Rifle Bar and the Marksman Badge and Submachine Gun Bar. He was also awarded the Croix de Guerre by the French for volunteering to go on a special mission to push the Germans back across the Rhine River as well as the Fourragère of Belgium for his part in the liberation of Belgium.

On April 13, 2008, Ernest LeRoy Peterson passed away at the age of 87. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Charlotte, his two children, six grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Peterson and other men and women who have given so much for our freedom. Like so many other members of the "Greatest Generation," I urge my colleagues to join me in expressing my heartfelt gratitude and sincere appreciation for the patriotic service of Mr. Ernest LeRoy Peterson.